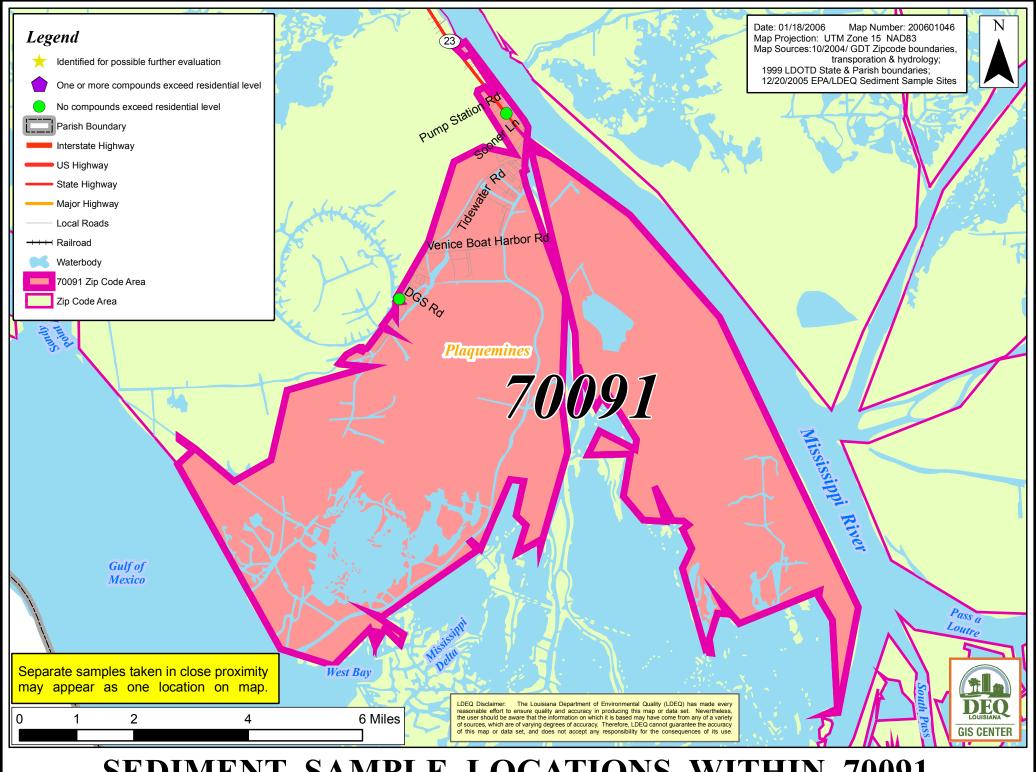


**ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS REPORT ZIP CODE 70091** 



SEDIMENT SAMPLE LOCATIONS WITHIN



## Department of Environmental Quality Office of Environmental Assessment

## OVERVIEW OF POST-KATRINA DATA FOR ZIP CODE 70091

The sediment and/or soil within the area flooded by Hurricane Katrina were tested to determine if there were contaminants present that might pose a risk to residents or the environment. Samples were collected at two locations within the zip code. Testing results indicated metals and petroleum hydrocarbons (such as diesel and oil) were present at the locations sampled. The presence of these chemicals is not surprising since metals are naturally-occurring in the soil and petroleum products are commonly used in every day life and, therefore, are present in our environment. The most significant findings of the sediment/soil testing are summarized below.

- <u>Metals</u>. The concentrations of the metals detected in the sediment/soil were consistent with levels found naturally in soil and therefore do not pose a concern.
- <u>Petroleum Hydrocarbons</u>. Petroleum hydrocarbons were found at the locations sampled. Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) (chemicals found in petroleum products, exhaust from automobiles, asphalt, etc.) were also found in the sediment/soil. The levels of these chemicals were below the level of concern at both locations tested.

The sediment/soil testing results show little to no health risk in the areas impacted by Hurricane Katrina. In addition, sediments are no longer present at many of the locations that were sampled right after floodwaters receded. Therefore, exposure to the sediment/soil is not expected to result in long-term health effects if people avoid obvious signs of hazardous materials, practice good personal hygiene, and use common sense. Some people may suffer from short-term effects related to dust, pollen and mold – which are prevalent because of the flooding and time of year.

Post-Katrina air monitoring results indicate that the concentrations of chemicals and particulate matter in the air have been, and continue to be, below state and federal health-based regulatory levels.